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"PEGGY PUTS IT OVER"

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Five Reel Drama

Seysseritz

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SYNOPSIS

Maxfield Conrow, a retired architect and engineer, has settled on his beautiful estate on the outskirts of Oldtown, a village that has slumped into shabbiness which is more or less of an eye-sore to Conrow. He proposes to the town council badly needed improvements, offering to finance them himself and personally supervise. In this he is aided by Dr. David Ransome, a well-liked young physician, who is heartily in accord with Conrow's hopes for Oldtown. The town is willing to let Conrow do all the work, consequently when, at the beginning of our story, the government has demanded Conrow's services at Washington, the proposition slumps and Oldtown continues in its old sleepy ways. Conrow has longed for a son to follow in his career, and Peggy, his only child, sensing his disappointment, had determined to make up for the lack of a son, as far as was in her limited power by going to an engineering college and finally graduated with a degree. She has been surprised of her father's plans for Oldtown. She has never met Dr. Ransome, and he has never seen her. However, he has shown a marked interest in her portrait, and Aunt Agatha scents a rival. Peggy breezes into town. Her fast auto balks on the road and she uses her engineering skill in trying to repair it. A hairpin finally solves the problem. Continuing on her way to the town - she refuses to be annoyed by a signal from the town constable, a crabby individual filled with the sense of his importance, and an ardent lover of scandal. Peggy passes through the town collecting some little children on her way. The young physician, working on his lawn, sees the children's danger, stops her, scolding her roundly for endangering the children's lives. Arriving at Greystone, the Conrow estate, she is welcomed by her Aunt Agatha and renews her acquaintance with the employees and the farm animals. Dr. Ransome calling that evening on the invitation from Aunt Agatha, is introduced to Peggy - embarrassed at having presumed to scold her. Peggy is secretly amused and in her feminine way, exacts a mild revenge. A mutual interest starts, however, but later grows into open antipathy over their differences in the future of Oldtown. Ransome urges tact rather than direction action in getting the improvements started - but Peggy with a breezy assuredness of youth, demands that the town be forced to go on with her father's plans. All energy, Peggy attends a meeting of the town council, demands to know the progress of the work - and the reason for its having been dropped. Silas Tucker, chairman, tells her that without a consulting engineer on the spot they were unable to proceed. Peggy tells him that there is a consulting engineer right on the spot - herself. She is ridiculed. This rouses her and determines to wake up the town, for its own good, and in spite of the council's opposition. She maps out a scheme to use a pasture land, deeded to her by her father, as a new town site - and accordingly draws the plans and starts to survey. Peggy fits up the lofts as her studio. She rents a small office in the village, plasters it with signs and tells the natives of her plans. Some

become in favor of it and the council view with apprehension the possibility of a large part of the population moving to the new town. They appeal to Dr. Ransome for help, knowing that he is well liked by Conrow, and is himself a power for good in the community. Conrow, in Washington, has been apprised of Peggy's action and secretly hopes they will have the effect desired. He writes the doctor to take care of his (Conrow's) interests. The doctor puts a barrier in the way of Peggy's plans by announcing to the council that the New town will have to use Oldtown's post office. Peggy is put into further opposition to the physician and the fact that she has ~~grown~~ grown extremely fond of him, makes it all the worse for her feelings. She wires her father to obtain a government sanction for the postoffice at Newtown. Conrow replies that she must have Ransome's consent. Peggy works herself into a tender and repentant mood that evening and journeys to the doctor's house, to place her cause in his hands. Meantime a mass meeting is called with Ransome scheduled as the principal speaker - to defend the council and to oppose Peggy. Peggy arrives at Ransome's house at an inopportune time. She peers in through the window and is about to go into the house when Conrow calls upon the long distance. Peggy cannot but overhear Ransome's replies. She learns that he is opposing her in accordance with Conrow's instructions, and worse still, she hears Ransome admit over the phone that Peggy is a trifle headstrong, and should be tamed. This changes Peggy's mood and she looks around for means of reprisal. Rusty and two other employees of the Conrow estate happen by, a little the worse from too much hard cider, and Peggy, with a desperation born of the word "headstrong", conceals her plan. She goes into the house, demands that Ransome remain away from the meeting that night. He refuses. She calls in Rusty and his helpers and they bind and gag Ransome. He submits without much struggle, wondering what Peggy will do about the matter. Peggy has him driven to the loft studio where she intends to keep him until the meeting is over and it is too late for him to speak. In the meantime, David's absence from the meeting has caused concern, and Silas and others go to his house to escort him. They find evidences of a struggle, red stains from an overturned ink bottle on the floor, every evidence of foul play. Silas finds Peggy's handkerchief on the floor and identifies it easily, since no other girl in Oldtown uses so delicate a piece of lace and linen. They proceed to Greystone in force, and obtain an admission from Aunt Agatha that Peggy had called upon the doctor that night. The gathering search the grounds. In her studio, David trips and hurts his head. He becomes unconscious. Peggy is alarmed and administers first aid, worried over her responsibility and the injury to the man she loves. The crowd goes back to the village, but Silas snoops around. He climbs to the studio-loft and peers in, seeing Peggy with David's head on her lap. Peggy cannot resist kissing him - he is unconscious and need never know. But Silas sees and gloats over the pleasure of telling his news. Peggy watches beside David, and tired, from her efforts, falls asleep. Dawn comes with Peggy still asleep. David wakes up with a bruised head, but otherwise uninjured. He realizes where he is and looks with devotion on the sleeping Peggy. He kisses her reverently and then hurries away. It is Sunday. Outside the church, Silas tells what he saw the night before. All are properly scandalized. David arrives and is accused. He hesitates about explaining, as it will mean accusing Peggy. Besides, he does not regret the adventure. When Silas discloses the fact that he saw Peggy kissing David, the latter's elation knows no bounds. The villagers cannot understand his manner in the face of this obvious scandal. Peggy has waked, and thinking that David will still attempt to block her plans arrives at the church. She sees David surrounded by the villagers, and believes he is talking against her plans. Peggy is astonished ~~in~~ on hearing of the accusation against the doctor. Is unable to collect her thoughts. Silas waits for denials or explanations, and then the villagers decide that Dr. Ransome must leave the village. David, still

refusing to implicate Peggy in any way, accepts. Peggy driven again to desperation, announces that everything is all right - that she and David eloped the night before. David is as astonished as the others. The villagers loving Ransome, are delighted that the stain is removed from his character. They present their congratulations. Conrow arrives in response to a telegram from Peggy the night before which announced that "she had the doctor with her". He is informed of the elopement and it pleases him, for he has always hoped that Peggy and David would get together. The constable is annoyed and hurls his last shot to the effect that the meeting the night before resolved to proceed with the work of Conrow, and defeat Peggy's plans. He is much taken aback, when Peggy smiles and says that that was exactly what she was working for all along. Peggy leads her father and David to her car. As Conrow muses - "So my little daughter is married" she whispers to him, "Not yet - but soon." Before he can obtain particulars, she has whisked David off in her car, heading for the nearest minister.

End

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